

Message Text

PAGE 01 THE HA 01308 01 OF 02 210832 Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03

GAC-01 RSR-01 /095 W

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R 210745 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 924

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 1308

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, NL

SUBJECT: NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT: BURGER DECIDING
WHETHER TO RETURN MANDATE

REF: THE HAGUE 1263

1. SUMMARY: CHU LEADER TILANUS INFORMED FORMATEUR BURGER
MARCH 20 HE WAS READY TO TALK BUT SAID BURGER' S VIEW
THERE CAN BE NO DISCUSSION OF LEFT WING GOVERNMENT
ACCORD IS " DIFFICULT POINT". TILANUS AGAIN STRESSED NEED
TO DISCUSS PROGRAM AND PORTFOLIO DISTRIBUTION. KVP
LEADER ANDRIESSEN SAID LATE MARCH 19 FORMATEUR WAS
MISTAKEN IF HE THOUGHT KVP AND ARP HAD ACCEPTED LEFT
WING PROGRAM IN ITS ENTIRETY. BURGER WAS ON POINT OF
RETURNING MANDATE MARCH 16 BUT LABOR' S DEN UYL, WHOSE
CONDUCT DURING FORMATION APPROVED BY LABOR' S CENTRAL
COMMITTEE EVENING MARCH 16, PERSUADED HIM TO CONTINUE.
BURGER SEES QUEEN LATER TODAY (MARCH 20) BUT IMPOSSIBLE
TO PREDICT WHETHER HE WILL OR WILL NOT RETURN
MANDATE. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER MEETING OF PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MORNING MARCH
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PAGE 02 THE HA 01308 01 OF 02 210832 Z

20, CHU FLOOR LEADER TILANUS ANNOUNCED HE WAS WILLING
TO TALK TO FORMATEUR BURGER BUT SAID BURGER' S VIEW THAT

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM OF LEFT WING NOT OPEN TO DISCUSSION WOULD MAKE SUCH TALKS DIFFICULT. TILANUS WAS REPLYING TO BURGER' S LETTER OF MARCH 17 WHICH SAID IF CHU WOULD " TOLERATE" DEN UYL GOVERNMENT, (I. E. NOT SUPPORT NO CONFIDENCE MOTION FIRST DAY IN OFFICE) DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BE DESIRABLE. TILANUS HAD SAID EARLIER (MARCH 19) HE WELCOMED BURGER' S COMMUNICATION BUT HAD EMPHASIZED CHU MUST TALK ABOUT THE NEW GOVERNMENT' S PROGRAM AND SEAT DISTRIBUTION IN THE CABINET.

3. CONFESSIONAL PARTY FLOOR LEADERS AND CHAIRMEN MET EVENING MARCH 19 IN UTRECHT. AT CONCLUSION THIS SESSION, KVP LEADER ANDRIESEN SAID FURTHER EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH BURGER FRUITLESS SINCE LETTERS ONLY CREATED MISUNDERSTANDING. FOR EXAMPLE, BURGER HAD DRAWN MISTAKEN CONCLUSION THAT BOTH KVP AND ARP AGREED WITH HIS VIEW THAT LEFT WING PROGRAM WAS NOT POINT OF DISCUSSION. EMPHASIS TILANUS AND ANDRIESEN PUT ON " DISCUSSIONS" OF LEFT WING PROGRAM (ACTUALLY NEGOTIATIONS WHICH LEFT WING PROMISED NEVER TO ENGAGE IN) SPURRED 11 PROMINENT MEMBERS OF KVP, ARP AND CHU TO DISPATCH TELEGRAMS TO CONFESSIONAL FLOOR LEADERS PLEADING FOR SUPPORT BURGER EFFORT. SIMILAR PLEA CAME FROM KVP DISTRICT CHAIRMEN FOR HAGUE, AMSTERDAM, ROTTERDAM AND UTRECHT AREAS.

4. LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN UTRECHT MARCH 16 PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY WITH DEN UYL CONDUCT DURING FORMATION SUPPORTED BY MOST OF THOSE PRESENT. DEN UYL, WHO CONCEDED LEFT WING' S CHANCE OF GOVERNING NOW SEEMED " SLIGHT," STRESSED THERE HAD BEEN NO NEGOTIATION ON LEFT WING ELECTION PROGRAM. THEREFORE THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE TO EXTREME LEFT' S CHARGE THAT IN EFFORT TO GOVERN DEN UYL RUNNING RISK OF BETRAYING HIS VOTERS. MORNING AFTER LABOR CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, BURGER MADE OPENING TO CHU BY WRITING TILANUS. HE ALSO INFORMED AANTJES AND ANDRIESEN, WHO HAD TOLD HIM FURTHER EXCHANGE OF LETTERS SENSELESS, HE MIGHT BE WILLING TO MEET THEM TOGETHER WITH TILANUS.

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PAGE 03 THE HA 01308 01 OF 02 210832 Z

5. REASON BEHIND BURGER' S DECISION TO BE MORE TRACTABLE TOWARD CHU EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR BY FONMIN SCHMELZER MARCH 19 TH. FONMIN SAID BURGER HAD TOLD NATO SEC GEN LUNS (WHO HAD CALLED BURGER MARCH 16 TO INFORM HIM DEFENSE PLANK IN LEFT WING' S PROGRAM MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GON TO MEET ITS NATO COMMITMENTS) HE WAS READY TO GIVE UP MANDATE. BUT SOON AFTER, IN LAST DITCH EFFORT TO SAVE FORMATION, DEN UYL HAD CONTACTED BURGER AND ASKED

HIM TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE ON CHU ISSUE. BURGER IS NOW
SCHEDULED TO SEE QUEEN, WHO HAS INTERRUPTED HER WINTER
VACTION IN LECH FOR SECOND TIME, LATE THIS AFTERNOON.

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PAGE 01 THE HA 01308 02 OF 02 210839 Z

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6. COMMENT: FONMIN SCHMELZER TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 19
HE DID NOT SEE HOW AGREEMENT BETWEEN CONFSSIONALS
AND PROGRESSIVES ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAM WAS POSSIBLE.
HE THOUGHT IF BURGER EFFORT FAILS, QUEEN MIGHT ASK
KVP FLOOR LEADER ANDRIESEN TO FORM EXTRA- PARLIAMENTARY
GOVERNMENT IN WHICH LIBERALS AND DS 70 MIGHT BE
INCLUDED. SCHMELZER'S SUCCESSOR (SHOULD LEFT WING
COME TO POWER) MAX VAN DER STOEL TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 20
THAT WHILE POSITION OF CHU IMPORTANTTHAT OF KVP WOULD
BE FAR MORE DECISIVE. HE SAID ANDRIESEN UNDER
PRESSURE FROM LEFT WING PARLIAMENTARIANS, NKV AND
PARTY CADRE TO ALLOW BURGER TO SUCCEED. VAN DER
STOEL SAID IMPORTANT THING WAS TO SEE WHETHER KVP
INSISTED ON NEGOTIATIONS ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAM
(UNACCEPTABLE) OR ONLY ON " CLARIFICATION" OF POINTS
IN PROGRAM. HE FLATLY REFUSED TO PREDICT WHETHER
BURGER EFFORT WOULD SUCCEED OR NOT. LABOR SECOND
CHAMBER MEMBER TER BEEK TOLD POL COUNS MARCH 20
THAT CHU LATEST LETTER TO BURGER WAS WRITTEN AS IF
THE LAST THREE MONTHS HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE. TER BEEK
SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT CURRENT FORMATION WOULD BREAK
OLD RECORD (1956, FOURTH CABINET DREES, 122 DAYS)
AS OF 31 MARCH. HE SAID IT WAS TOO BAD IT COULD NOT
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PAGE 02 THE HA 01308 02 OF 02 210839 Z

BE APRIL 1 WHICH ALL THINGS CONSIDERED WAS A FAR MORE
APPROPRIATE DAY.
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